has been raised here and now no one can reply to it off the cuff. That is what I am saying...(*Interruptions*) The utmost I can do is, I will request the Finance Minister to go through what the hon. Members have said and if he thinks any information is to be given, he will give it...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI (Bhadrak): Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Sir, since the beginning of this Session, I have been submitting notices under various rules of the House. But you have not given a chance to me to speak so far...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. I am giving the ruling on your point of order.

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: I have submitted notices regarding my constituency. You are giving chance to some other hon. Member to speak on the same subject. But you have not allowed me to speak. This is certainly unfair...

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: What he says is not going on record.

(*Interruptions*)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI KESRI LAL (Ghatampur): Mr. Speaker Sir, since I came here after having been elected, I am giving Calling Attention Motions on one or the other subject, but none of my motions has been admitted. I am not being given an opportunity to put up my views. If I do not get an opportunity to make my point in respect of my constituency, why was I elected by the people. As such, I am walking out of the House.

12.52 hrs.

(*At this stage, Shri Kesri Lal left the house*).

*Not recorded

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Well, I can appreciate the anger of the Member. But there are 542 Members in this House. And if every Member is wanting to speak on the same day, it is not possible. It would be very unfair on the part of anybody in the House to allege things against each other, even against the Chair also.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Now I do not appreciate it. And this way we will not be able to conduct the proceedings in the House because it is not possible for me to satisfy each and every Member at one and the same time.

(*Interruptions*)

12.54 hrs.

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat, Shri Madhav Rao Scindia.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION UNDER RULE 357

Clarification regarding certain remarks reported to have been made by Shri Madhav Rao Scindia, the Minister of Civil Aviation and Tourism at a press interview at Lucknow on 4-8-91.

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): Sir, I rise to make a clarification regarding a statement purported to have been made by me at a press conference in Lucknow on the 4th August. Our country today is facing challenges of gigantic dimensions. We are passing through a grave political economic and social crisis. At such a juncture it is imperative that we stand united in our resolve to protect the unity and integrity of our country, and it is the duty of every nationalist to ensure that his every step contributes to strengthening the national fabric and not to destroying it.

[Sh. Madhav Rao Scindia]

It is regrettable that at such a critical time** has chosen to use religion...(*Interruptions*).

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi): This is highly objectionable.....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Let us hear the Minister.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kamal Nath, you are a Minister. Please do not do like this.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Khuranaji, you may please sit down.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: You are adding to the confusion. Please take your seat.

(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): Sir, I would like to submit to you that this matter was raised in this House by the hon. Members. I had said that I would draw the attention of the hon. Minister and if he has anything to say by way of clarification he will say it. Now in response to that assurance I gave in the House, the hon. Minister wants to say something. At least the hon. House must hear him and after we have heard him, then they can raise anything.....(*Interruptions*)

13.00 hrs.

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats.

(*Interruptions*)

**Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

SHRI MOHAMMAD YUNUS SALEEM (Katihar): Sir, a request was made that the Minister should make a statement. Now, the Minister is making a statement. We should at least hear him....(*Interruptions*) He must be allowed to make the statement. They made certain charges against the hon. Minister. He must make a clarification. He must be allowed to make the statement so that we may know the truth. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Let me say something.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if we are not prepared to listen to each other in the Parliament, the business of the House cannot be conducted and we will have to go to some other forum. (*Interruptions*) Please listen to me. I would like to tell all the hon. Members that listening to each other's views is not only our duty but also an utmost necessity for running the Parliamentary system. If we are not prepared to hear, business of the House cannot be conducted. The very moment Mr. Advani raised this point that day I said, with your kind permission, that I would draw the attention of the hon. Minister in this regard and if he deemed it fit, he would make a statement. It could be that any of points made by the hon. Minister may not appeal the hon. Members or the *vice-versa*, some of the points made by the hon. Members may not appeal us, but it should not be so that we should not listen to each other. The hon. Members may pass any remark they like after listening to hon. Minister's statement. The hon. Minister wants to make a statement today itself on the point raised by the hon. Member. If he is not allowed to make his point, it will not be justifiable. I make this submission with your kind permission. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I fully agree to the views of the leader of the House. When the hon. Minister got up to make a statement, everybody was listening to him intently. But the hon. Minister would certainly agree that this dispute gained currency over one word only. It was not a question as to who amongst us is working in the national interest. All the hon. Members sitting here are performing their roles, in one capacity or the other, in the national interest. I am not going to make it a issue today by asking you to tell us what is in the national interest and what is not.

Mr. Speaker. Sir, generally, we make most of our criticism outside and nobody raises an objection to that. The leader of the House makes criticisms himself. Ministers also make criticism. Nobody has ever raised an objection in this regard. This objection was raised over one word. Some times such type of words are used against us and we never minded for that. I would like to say that there should be no double standards while levelling such allegations. It hardly matters when people make such references in a fit of anger, but when a Union Minister says that Bharatiya Janata Party people are traitors..... (*Interruptions*)

AN HON. MEMBER: He did not say so.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: If he did not say so, please listen to me. When he uttered a few identical words in the same context, my party colleagues felt that he is in one way, repeating the same thing. Of course, he has not used that particular word, but we will not allow this thing to happen. It is wrong. Please let me know first whether he used the word "traitor" or not? If he did not say so, there is no need to proceed further, Let him say, that he did not say "traitor".

[*English*]

I do not want any explanation. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats and let me make my point. Sunil Duttji, please take your seat. I understand that when a clarification was sought on this point, they are clarifying in their own way. If their clarification is not acceptable to you, you can say in the end that it is not acceptable to you. If you do not allow them to complete their point, it will be difficult. Please let them make their point. After they conclude you can say, whether or not it is acceptable to you. But, please let them make their point.

[*English*]

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay-North): Sir. I am on a point of order. My point of order is that according to the rules, whenever any Minister makes a statement, he is expected to give a copy to you. I just want to know whether such a copy has been given to you.....(*Interruptions*) and whether you have approved it.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar): Otherwise this should not be another occasion. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

I have made my point clear, but I have not finished my point. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I will decide the point of order. Shri Ram Naik was very correct. Please .....

(*Interruptions*)

AN HON. MEMBER: I want to know whether it is a statement or personal explanation. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ram Naik was very correct when he said that when a statement is made by a Minister, a copy is generally supplied. Now there is a little difference here

[Mr. Speaker]

between the statement and the explanation. All the same, I would like to bring to your notice that a portion of this thing was brought to my notice by the hon. Minister.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA: I would request Shri Advani to please

[*Translation*]

Please, at least, try to understand the context in which I said so. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

I listened to your leader. Why don't you listen to me? (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: After you hear him, if you do not agree with what he said.....

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM KAPSE (Thane): Have you used the word or not? (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK (Buldana): Sir, will the Opposition Member dictate the hon. Minister as to what he should speak? (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA. I must be allowed to explain in my own way, not in Shri Advani's way. (*Interruptions*) In spite of the fact that the issue was raised under a purported allegation against**, that was how it was raised. I have every right to answer in that context. However, keeping the desires of the hon. Members I would like them to hear me. I will withdraw that. Let me now explain what I want to say, and why I said it and in what context I said it and what I said .. ...(*Interruptions*)

**Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

SHRI RAM KAPSE: Have you said it or not? (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi): You must clarify it whether you had said it or not? (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA: It is regrettable that at such a critical time a political party has chosen to use religion as their plank to garner votes .....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: What is this again? (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK: Can the leader of Opposition dictate the hon. Minister as to what reply he should give? The hon. Minister is replying to, only on his demand. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV (Azamgarh): They cannot dictate. This is not the way that they will not allow any Minister or a Member to make a statement or give an explanation. How can we function in this Parliament?

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (Jhansi): You tell us whether you have said it or not? (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Rabi Rayji, you please sit down.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RABI RAY (Kendrapada): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are here to facilitate you, to help you and to run the House smoothly. Today, I think that the House is not in a mood to listen anybody; but there is no doubt that nobody should be allowed to stop

or interrupt any Minister when he is making some statement. No hon Member should do like that. However, it is always better on the part of the hon. Speaker, or the Chairman, to conduct the business of the House, keeping in view the feelings of the Members. I understand the anxiety of Shri Advaniji and I know the hon. Minister Shri Scindiaji also and whichever the way he wants to speak he can speak; but for your assistance, I would like to request him whatever he wants to say he should say it in a better way. Suppose he used the words "traitor" for any party.....(*Interruptions*)

If you don't like to listen to me then it is all right.....(*Interruptions*)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, realising your problem, I would like only to request you that neither you nor the House need be in trouble. I request Shri Scindiaji that there is no scope for any argument in it as it is an emotional matter. Therefore, through you, again I would like to state if he thinks it fit, he should express the things in a better way (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to thank Rabi Rayji for what he has said. And I think the spirit of his statement will be understood by all of us here, in the House.

SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA: Indiraji and Rajivji had focussed the entire attention of the nation on an exercise aimed at ensuring a better life to the 'Sarvahara'—the proletariat. At such a time when we should be grappling with the "bread and butter" problems faced by the economically and socially backward...(*Interruptions*).

At such a time when we should be grappling with the "bread and butter" problems faced by the economically and socially backward, has not a political party for election objectives swept such issues under the carpet and tried to divide every village and hamlet along communal lines? (*Interruptions*) I have not taken the name of the BJP. (*Interruptions*) I have not taken the name of the BJP. (*Interruptions*) Can we not see the effects of this campaign in every town and village of the country? (*Interruptions*). Can it be denied that the glorious Hindu religion of which I am proud, has been twisted and contorted and presented in the narrowest possible terms merely to serve a political end? (*Interruptions*)

Every individual has a right to be proud of his or her religion, whether Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, Jain, Buddhist or Christian. They all espouse the universal message of a world in which should flow the milk of human kindness and not the poison of human hatred. It is this ethos which our great country with its centuries old history and its rich cultural tradition has always represented. This has been the tradition of "Bharat Mata" —embracing in her fold, people from all religions, castes and creeds and giving them protection to grow together in peace and tranquillity. (*Interruptions*)

Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Maulana Azad, Sardar Patel and Baba Saheb Ambedkar were some of the outstanding symbols of this philosophy, and it is this philosophy of secularism that the Congress Party is committed to. (*Interruptions*)

In direct contrast, have we not in the recent election campaign seen the video films produced by a particular political party? Have we not heard tapes of the blood-curdling communal speeches of the leaders of a political party? Has not the vilest communal propaganda been propagated from many a platform of a political party? Can this be denied? (*Interruptions*) I know that in**—I know in a political party there are some opponents to this virulent religious line being taken by the Party. I can see those faces. I do not want to name them.

**Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

[Sh. Madhav Rao Scindia]

I know in that political party there are some people who oppose this virulent religious line being taken by the Party. I would not name them. Some of them are sitting in the front benches. (*Interruptions*). Nevertheless, there are many who continue in a strident communal fashion and greatly damage the national fabric, instead of adding a new lustre to it. It is against such elements that my comments were directed. (*Interruptions*)

I said that** leaders of a political party and all others, whichever religion they may belong to, who are dividing the nation along religious lines, are certainly acting against the national interest. [**] I fully stand by this statement. (*Interruptions*)

I am proud to belong to a Party which is firm in its resolve to oppose such elements, whichever religion they may belong to and thereby ensure that people belonging to all religious faiths feel happy and secure in mind and in spirit. I will not hesistate to espouse this cause—for this the very essence of India; this is what the Congress Party has always stood for; this is a philosophy that I am totally committed to; this is the ideal which Indiraji and Rajivji lived and died for. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, whatever the hon. Minister has said could not be heard. However, two or three sentences which could be heard, do not give an impression that the hon. Minister has realised the fact that calling any opposition party or its members as 'Anti national' is not only against the Parliamentary tradition but is also against common etiquettes...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA: They were not prepared to listen to my statement. Then, why should I listen to his statement? You have not listened to what I have said. How do you expect others to listen to you? You are not wedded to the democratic tradition. I have not taken the name of BJP. I have said, "a political party". If you think that it is "yours", then it is your business and not mine. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Several discussions have been held in this House. There have been a number of occasions on which we have very bitterly criticised each other. But even after hearing such a bitter criticism from your party, we have never called your party as a traitor and if inadvertantly it is said, I never hesitate in tendering an apology on behalf of my party. But tendering an apology needs etiquettes and grace. It seems to me that taking an opportunity of this occasion today, a tirade has been started against my party. As a protest against this tirade and lack of etiquettes, I am staging a walk out just now to register my protest. But I have no doubt that the public will definitely give a befitting reply to the Government at the appropriate time...(*Interruptions*)

13.28 hrs.

(*Shri Lal K. Advani and some other hon. Members then left the House.*)

**Expunged as ordered by the Chair.